

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4332

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8750

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: DEPTTEL 226054

JOVA/LOW TELCON

BRANDIN/HENKEL TELCON

1. AMB SPOKE TO GALLASTEGUI ALONG LINES DEPTTEL 226054 LAST NIGHT.
GALLASTEGUI'S FIRST REACTION FRIGID BUT AGREED SPEAK TO PRESIDENT.

2. GALLASTEGUI CAME TO RESIDENCE THIS MORNING TO REPORT ON HIS TALKS
WITH ECHEVERRIA. PRESIDENT IS COGNIZANT OF HEAVY SCHEDULE IMPOSED ON
PRESIDENT FORD AND DESIRING TO BE HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE IS WILLING
TO GIVE UP HIS CHERISHED CONCEPT OF BUS TRIP. ON OTHER HAND, HE ALSO
HAS INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT POLITICALLY
IMPOSSIBLE TO SKIP ANY CONTACT AT ALL WITH LARGE, IMPORTANT CITY OF
NOGALES. ACCORDINGLY ECHEVERRIA INSISTS THAT INITIAL MEETING TAKE
PLACE AT BORDER (AS IN FACT HE HAS ALREADY STATED IN WRITTEN MESSAGE
TO CONGRESS REQUESTING AUTHORITY LEAVE MEXICAN TERRITORY).
BORDER CEREMONY WOULD BE COMPRESSED TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM I.E. PLAYING
BOTH NATIONAL ANTHEMS, NO REPEAT NO SPEECHES, AND BOTH PRESIDENTS
WOULD PROCEED BY CAR DOWN MAIN DRAG OF NOGALES TO AIRPORT OR NEARBY
HELICOPTER PAD FROM WHENCE TRIP TO MAGDALENA WOULD BE DONE BY
HELICOPTER. (AMB. STRESSED THAT IF THIS ACCEPTED, USE OF U.S.
HELICOPTERS IS ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT).

3. GALLASTEGUI SAID THAT REMAINDER OF PROGRAM AS WORKED OUT TENTA-
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BY ADVANCE GROUP SEEMED ACCEPTABLE AND ECHEVERRIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO USE DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE RATHER THAN CIVIL AIRPORT IF THIS WOULD MAKE OUR PROBLEMS EASIER.

4. THE ABOVE REPORTED IN TELCONS TO LOW AND HENKEL. GALLASTEGUI HAS BEEN ASSURED BY AMBASSADOR THAT ECHEVERRIA'S SUGGESTION BEING CONSIDERED IN A POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND, BUT THAT FINAL DECISION NOT YET MADE.

5. GALLASTEGUI HAS NOW CALLED AGAIN FROM PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE, TELLING AMBASSADOR THAT ECHEVERRIA HAPPY THAT WE ARE APPROACHING SUBJECT POSITIVELY AND URGING THAT WE ACCEPT NOGALES. GALLASTEGUI STRESSED AGAIN THAT ECHEVERRIA HAS BEEN EAGER TO BE HELPFUL AND CONCILIATORY: - AGREEING TO CHANGES OF SITE FROM AMISTAD DAM TO NOGALES AND WAS PREPARED EVEN TO ACCEPT MEXICALI. IS NOW PREPARED TO GIVE UP BUS TRIP, TO TRAVEL BY U.S. HELICOPTER, TO USE U.S. MILITARY BASE AND (THIS I'LL BELIEVE WHEN I SEE IT) TO CUT PUBLIC SPEECHES TO MINIMUM. HE ASKS IN RETURN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF NEED FOR AN ABBREVIATED PASSAGE THROUGH NOGALES. HE HAS NOW SENT ME TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS REFERRED TO ABOVE WHICH STATES IN APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH (INFORMAL TRANSLATION): "OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN THE FRONTIER AREA BETWEEN NOGALES, SONORA AND THE STATE OF ARIZONA, IN THE AMERICAN UNION, ON THE 21ST DAY OF THE PRESENT MONTH OF OCTOBER." THIS MAKES AN OMISSION OF NOGALES FROM THE ITINERARY AN EVEN GREATER EMBARRASSMENT ACCORDING TO GALLASTEGUI.

6. AT DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST BOTH EMBASSY'S AND GOM'S ADVANCE PARTIES PROCEEDING TO NOGALES AREA TO RENDEZVOUS WITH DEPT'S. REPRESENTATIVES ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 14.
JOVA

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